

RECOGNIZING LOS ANGELES
POLICE OFFICER PAUL AVILA

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Paul Avila and his 25 years of public service and dedication to the City of Los Angeles as a Police Officer III. The calling to be a police officer is an incredibly difficult and important vocation of public service. Those who risk their lives for the good of the community are worthy of the highest respect and appreciation of our district, State, and Nation.

Paul entered the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Academy in 1998 and six months later he began his probation period in Northeast Los Angeles. Five years later, he was transferred to Southeast Los Angeles where he served for the rest of his career. Throughout his 25-year career, Paul rose through the ranks of LAPD. He trained new recruits as a field training officer, became an undercover vice investigator, and was a probation officer coordinator. In addition to his professional roles, Paul was the oldest member of his division's Baker to Vegas relay team that placed in the top 3 within the division every year.

This July, Paul is officially retiring. I hope that he gets to rest and enjoy time with his wife and family. We are grateful for his service to our community.

For his outstanding accomplishments, it is my honor to recognize Police Officer Paul Avila. His years of civic service and commitment to the city and the people of Los Angeles are worthy of the highest commendation.

HONORING THE EXEMPLARY
SERVICE OF COMMAND SER-
GEANT MAJOR CHRISTOPHER
POCCIA DURING THE PEAK/CALF
CANYON FIRE

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Command Sergeant Major Christopher Poccia for his service to the people of San Miguel and Mora counties during the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire.

The Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire started on April 6, 2022, when a U.S. Forest Service prescribed burn got out of control. The fire burned 341,735 acres between April and late August in the southern Sangre de Cristo Mountains. It was the largest wildfire in New Mexico history. In northern New Mexico many residents were displaced.

Command Sergeant Major Christopher Poccia was deployed to San Miguel and Mora counties with his National Guard unit for Task Force Wildfire. He distinguished himself as a trusted helper to community members who told me how grateful they were for his service during a time devastation and uncertainty. His kindness, positive attitude, and willingness to serve will have a lasting impact for generations to come.

Every day, Christopher and his team worked at the improvised shelter. They delivered supplies, helped people to find assistance, and ventured to evacuated areas to assist those afraid to leave. He is an example of service, and service is an act of love. During his more than 90-day deployment, Christopher was away from his family. Today we also honor his wife Allison, his children Alec, Bella, and Jack, for the sacrifice they endured in his absence.

Christopher has returned to his work serving his community as a sergeant with the Albuquerque Police Department, where he is an exemplary model of leadership. At every turn he is at service to others and an example of how we can always look for the gaps where help is needed—and fill those spaces. We honor him and the other guardsmen and women of the National Guard who gave the most precious gift they had—their time—to help their neighbors during this crisis. They are heroes.

In line with the acts of service originating with the local community, President Biden signed my bill, the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire Assistance Act. This law provides \$3.95 billion in relief to victims of the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire.

Sacrifice and heroism are cornerstones of America's history. Thanks to Command Sergeant Major Poccia, his team, and others like him, New Mexicans received the help they needed to survive and begin their journey to recovery. I thank and honor him for his selflessness dedication to service.

UNLEASHING AMERICAN ENERGY

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, this week, the House has taken two important steps regarding our strategic competition with the Chinese Communist Party, the CCP.

And Mr. Speaker, those steps on this House Floor were overwhelmingly bipartisan.

First, we created a select committee on the strategic competition between the United States and the CCP.

Our vision of an integrated, open, free world where people can celebrate their religion, people can travel, people can trade, and that strategic competition presses the western values of Europe, The United States with the more narrow authoritarian view of the Chinese Communist Party.

Secondly, we prevented oil being released from our Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) and that being sold to Communist China.

And today, over 320 Members of this body agreed with that, by voting yes on H.R. 22.

Now, the Strategic Petroleum Reserve has played an important role in U.S. energy and national security policy for four decades.

It was created in response to the Arab oil embargo in the early 1970s, which resulted in the tripling of oil prices at the time.

Since that time, the SPR has remained a backstop for the United States in case of oil supply disruption.

And Mr. Speaker, those on the other side of the aisle talked about America becoming the largest exporting nation in the world and somehow that is a bad thing.

And that we freed our ability to export oil and gas outside the U.S. as if that were a bad thing.

It's not.

But they are two completely different issues.

The Strategic Petroleum Reserve is there for an emergency affecting the United States, our citizens, our households, our industry, principally in case of a Gulf hurricane or a disruption in a pipeline or in some other aspect of oil and gas disruption from war or an accident somewhere in the world.

It's not meant to be supplying oil per say to everybody besides the United States.

In just the last year, President Biden has released 180 million barrels of our Strategic Petroleum Reserve, bringing it down to a 1985 level.

A four-decade low.

This is not smart economic policy or energy policy in this country.

And in fact, Mr. Speaker, over 1 million barrels went to a Chinese affiliated company—at the same time China is reportedly holding its own crude reserve of over 900 million barrels.

So look, anyone with realistic knowledge and expectations in and around the debate about climate change or energy policy knows that this administration's energy policies have hurt American families, put our economy at risk, while at the same time weakening the globe's interest in fighting against climate change.

President Biden's failed policies to shut down the Keystone XL Pipeline, deny permits, discourage new drilling, discourage new pipeline construction, and through his bank and securities, Environmental, Social, Governance policies, so called "ESG policies" that too has discouraged badly needed capital investment to go to our energy industry and have weakened American global leadership and our strategic benefit, as referenced by my friends on the other side of the aisle, of energy independence.

President Biden has weakened our energy independence.

Instead, the Biden Administration has doubled down, even tripled down, on these policies that have not only raise the costs on every American, but do nothing in the long run to impact climate change.

While President Biden's nanny state regulators consider outlawing your gas stove in your home, or in your kitchen, or your restaurant, Republicans on this House Floor began their first step at unleashing an "all of the above" energy strategy.

So we have to let that sink in, that a federal regulator actually considered a serious policy proposal of banning you from having a gas stove in your home or in your restaurant.

I mean everyone in America was shaking their heads this week with the preposterous nature of that new idea from the Biden Administration.

Republicans believe in an "all of the above" strategy which benefits America and benefits the globe, and we must continue to invest in order to make it through a full global transition.

First, we have to keep investing in natural gas.

We have natural gas fields across our Nation, from the West Coast to the East Coast, in the heart of Pennsylvania, and of course, in the heart of New York State, where New York State's Democratic leadership refuses to let that be brought online.

Let that be developed benefiting New York tax base, New York workers, New York consumers, and that gas field just in Pennsylvania and New York alone, Mr. Speaker, some believe is larger and more lucrative than the largest gas field that we know of in Qatar in the Persian Gulf.

Yet we will never see a pipeline from Pennsylvania to East Coast ports under this administration, and possibly under any other future Democratic leadership.

If the war in Ukraine showed Europe and the World anything, it's that Russia cannot be trusted any longer—if they ever were—to be a reliable source to Europe for their energy consumption needs.

The United States stands ready to export more Liquefied Natural Gas to Europe, but the pipelines and other infrastructure don't fully exist in this country in order to have that impact to help our allies and partners in Europe and in Asia in the short run.

We need to make that investment.

Second, I have a solution that Democrats should meet all of their objects for world energy reliance, and consistent with their climate objectives.

It's clean, it's renewable, and we can export it to developing nations.

It's nuclear energy.

Yet, International Financial Institutions like the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) will not or are very reluctant to finance any nuclear power expansion in Europe.

And yet the countries of central Europe are demanding it.

They want that energy diversity, they want that "all of the above" energy strategy.

And yet the EBRD, which the United States is a shareholder, turns a blind eye to clean, renewable, dependable nuclear energy.

The EBRD insists of financing green energy projects to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars and yet ignores this common-sense "all of the above" strategy.

Today's reactor designs are not the plants of the yester-year.

They are not the plants of Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania or Chernobyl.

They are safe, reliable, and for many the top concern has been "what do we do with nuclear waste?"

Research in recent years has significantly advanced and today we have the ability to recycle nuclear waste components to produce even more abundant energy.

Nuclear power plants in France have the ability to do this, but we don't currently do it here in the U.S.

Recently, I visited Entergy's Nuclear One facility in Russellville, Arkansas and saw the nuclear waste byproducts that could be repurposed for future energy needs.

Further, I learned that the process to lengthen the life of a nuclear plant here in the United States, or much less build a new one, is an immense tangle of regulatory red tape that takes years to navigate and millions of dollars of out-of-pocket fees.

We, in Congress, can do a better job streamlining that kind of review.

When America leads in research and development, that knowledge and resulting benefits are exported around the world.

We can only export that success if we have the successful policies in place to spur that development.

We cannot expect developing nations in Africa, Southeast Asia, or here in the Western Hemisphere to power their growing cities and growing and wealth populations by wind and solar alone.

Principally, because of the issues with storage, deficiencies, and production of energy from renewables, that remains while improving years in advance.

Solely depending on that is unrealistic.

So when America does not have the will to export this R&D, those countries will turn to bad economic actors, like China and Russia.

Energy policy is a long-term investment in the needs of not only our future, but around the world.

Our globe needs 100 million barrels equivalent per day to power our homes, our economies.

And as more and more countries develop, and their people grow in wealth and prosperity, their energy needs rise, Mr. Speaker, not shrink.

We cannot wait and have nothing to offer, and we certainly don't want to impose California's energy policies on the world and expect a good outcome.

We should be investing in all of our energy options, and that's why the House Republicans in the weeks ahead, just as we started out here in our first week, we will be bringing policies to this House Floor to unleash an "all of the above" energy strategy, oil, natural gas, nuclear, and of course renewables, like wind and solar.

They all play a part, but the mistakes of our policies today under this President means we don't have the energy capacity and dependability that we not only need today, but tomorrow.

This unleashing policy by House Republicans not only puts America first, but it puts families across the globe first.

First in opportunity, first in food and fuel security, and in prosperity.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAILY STANDARD

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 175th anniversary of The Daily Standard, a newspaper located in Celina, Ohio, and the Fifth Congressional District.

The Daily Standard was founded in 1848, and its readership includes residents of communities throughout Mercer County and beyond. The Daily Standard works diligently to keep our communities informed on a wide and varied range of issues. For 175 years, The Daily Standard has been a consistent and reliable source of news, delivering local, state, and national updates to the residents of Northwest Ohio.

Again, it is a privilege to celebrate and pay special tribute to The Daily Standard, and its diligent staff, for 175 years in the newspaper business. Here is to 175 more.

HONORING THE HISTORIC CAREER OF JUDGE SHIELA TILLERSON ADAMS, TRAILBLAZING MARY- LAND CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

HON. GLENN IVEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Judge Shiela R. Tillerson Adams and her well-earned retirement after 12 years of working as the Chief and Administrative Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County and the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Maryland.

The achievements of Judge Tillerson Adams are historic. As the first African-American woman appointed to the District Court of Maryland, she blazed a trail, not just for women in Prince George's County but for us all. Three years later, she was elevated to the Circuit Court, where she served with distinction until another much-deserved promotion in 2010 made her the Chief and Administrative Judge for the Circuit Court.

At every step, her service was guided by a noble mission: "The Circuit Court Welcomes All—A Forum for Justice." Her commitment to that ethos never wavered. Throughout her tenure, she was a pioneer who expanded problem-solving courts to help people struggling with substance abuse, truancy, or reentry into society after incarceration. She worked to expand opportunities for veterans and diversion programs for juveniles, and she did it all with a sense of grace and compassion that is unmatched. She cares about people, through and through. She leaves a legacy that will reverberate in our community for generations.

It is with great pride that I recognize her accomplishments, and wish her a happy retirement after her storied judicial career.

ORIGAMI SAKE

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the entrepreneurial creativity of Ben Bell and Matt Bell, who recently founded Origami Sake in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Although they are unrelated, these two Bells share the same last name and the same passion for sake.

The pair met in 2016 after Ben returned to Arkansas from a trip to Japan, where he became interested in the art of making sake after living in that country for two years.

After years of collaboration, Ben and Matt joined forces to begin brewing sake in Arkansas, which led to the opening of their business.

Arkansas is the largest grower of rice in the United States and the Isbell farm has spent decades perfecting the proper rice to be used for sushi and now the proper rice that is needed for making high quality sake.

Additionally, the magnificent water from the famous Hot Springs National Park has the perfect quality for sake brewing. Ben and Matt are taking advantage of these resources in Arkansas make Sake even more popular and